

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 24 April 2022

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Matthew 11

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THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERS VIOLENCE

A POOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE KINGDOM

The Lord Jesus Christ had a major theme for preaching and teaching. It was

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

simply, "The Kingdom of God!" Sadly, very few comprehended what He sought to teach. The following is a poignant comment made by the Lord Jesus.

¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come.

¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 11:11-15

1. John the Baptiser

- a) He heralded the coming of the Messiah
- b) He proclaimed the Kingdom of God
- c) He was the prophesied Elijah who would precede the coming of the Messiah
- d) But few understood this!

2. The Kingdom of God suffers violence

- a) Violence is suffered
 - i) Sadly, violence seems to be associated with religion
 - ii) Persecution is chosen by those who propose and also those who oppose

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MEDITATION

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b) Literal violence

i) Some use physical violence, to push their ideas of the Kingdom of God

They think of the Kingdom of God as a political one

ii) Some use physical violence against the Kingdom of God

They are so opposed that they would resort to violence against the Gospel of the Kingdom

HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR

The Lord's teaching about the Kingdom was based on the prophecy of Daniel. (Daniel 7:13-14, 27)

1. It would be an eternal kingdom
2. No earthly kingdom ever lasts for too long
3. It is a spiritual kingdom, but nonetheless, very real
4. Entrance into God's kingdom:
 - a) Repentance
 - b) Faith
 - c) Regeneration

Let us be challenged to learn more about the Kingdom of God!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us today. May your heart be uplifted through worship and fellowship!



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR CHARLES TAN

Pastor sends greetings from Perth, Western Australia. He will be returning to Singapore tonight! Greetings from Bethel to all at Bethany!



ON-SITE: SUNDAY SCHOOL, CRECHE AND CHINESE WORSHIP SERVICE (CWS)

1 May 2022

In adherence to the current SMM and to optimise and accommodate more worshippers in the main sanctuary (when the adults and teens from SSS1 and ISS start their Sunday School on 1 May):

1. Parents with young children (unvaccinated) will use Audit 2-1 and if necessary Audit Level 2M (Toilets are ready and available)
2. The nursing mothers will continue to use Audit 3-1 and the toddlers with mothers will continue using Audit 3-8.
3. The Creche will continue to use Audit 4-1.
4. The CWS will be worshipping at the Fellowship Hall (Piano side) starting this week.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY THIS COMING WEEK

25 April- 1 May 2022

1. Special Seniors Program

a) Tuesday, 26 April 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

b) Thursday, 28 April 2022 | 9.30am-11.30am

2. Weekend Ministry

a) Saturday, 30 April 2022
Youth Worship | 3.00pm

b) Sunday, 1 May 202 | 10.00am

i) Morning Worship Service

ii) Chinese Worship Service



NEW PULPIT MINISTRY: MAY-JUNE 2022

“The Coming of the Son of Man” Matthew 24:37

1. This series of messages will be on the subject of the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. A Key Text that we will be reading is Matthew 24



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESUMPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

1. We will resume Holy Communion
 - a) 1st Sunday of each month
Morning Worship Service
 - b) 2nd Sunday of each month
Chinese Worship Service
2. Let us prepare our hearts for Communion well
May the Lord draw us closer to Himself!



BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 24 April 2022

Text: “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached” Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

1. A prophetic word

- a) That the Gospel would be preached in all the world
- b) As a witness to all the nations as to the truth of the Gospel
- c) Then would the end come

2. A prophetic word that carries a challenge

- a) To proclaim the Gospel
- b) To hold fast to our faith in the Kingdom of God
- c) Let us strengthen our faith as deeply as possible

NEXT SUNDAY: 1 May 2022

Text: “What will be the sign of Your coming?” Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:153 -154

¹⁵³ Consider my affliction and deliver me,
For I do not forget Your law.

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me;
Revive me according to Your word.

1. Prayer for help in times of deliverance

a) A prayer for deliverance is needed

b) Redemption is another word for deliverance

2. Pleading with the LORD

a) For prayer to be answered

b) For revival to take place

POETRY CORNER

1

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERS VIOLENCE

The Kingdom of God is often poorly understood;
The teachings of the Lord Jesus are misunderstood.
There were many who rejected the Gospel outright;
Many already feel that they are good and upright!

The Kingdom of God has suffered violence time and again;
The servants of God are persecuted by those who reign.
The prophets of old were tortured mercilessly;
Yet these stalwarts of faith preached faithfully.

The Kingdom of God cannot be proclaimed violently;
The example of the Lord Jesus stands out vividly.
He was opposed by many and He suffered death;
But He retained a heart of love to His last breath!

The Kingdom of God is a realm of light;
Its people serve the Lord with all their might.
Let us be moved to know our faith better;
May our hearts never become bitter!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Matthew 11

POETRY CORNER

2

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE?

To what may the Kingdom of God be likened?
The Lord Jesus chose humble illustrations.
It will require more than human wisdom,
To grasp this divine and glorious Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus likened it to a mustard seed;
This lowly plant seems so common indeed.
But one day, it could grow to be a large tree,
Like the Kingdom that would flourish greatly!

He also likened the Kingdom to mere leaven,
In the making of bread, leaven is important.
To the naked eye, it may not be visible,
But its presence and effect are undeniable.

How great is the value of the Kingdom!
We must take time to ponder and fathom.
May there be faith to hear His teachings,
And humility to seek for understanding!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Luke 13:18-21

POETRY CORNER

3

Kingdom Truths

Kingdoms are associated with riches and cavalry;
Their kings accorded pomp and pageantry.
No wonder the Pharisees asked when the Kingdom of God would be;
Since they were seeking to see the kingdom's physicality.

But the truth is God's kingdom does not come with observation;
Nor was the King Himself accepted by His generation.
The capacity to forgive is what is needed and most important;
Not least too, the willingness to become God's unprofitable servant.

Faith is that which enables receipt of God's power;
To overcome the world's deception and sin's devious nature.
Many will be complacent in the perceived notion of what is deemed normal;
But the Kingdom of God is already here for all to make haste to enter.

May we seek to comprehend these Kingdom truths;
Not only for the grown-ups, but also for our children and our youths.
We need to deepen our knowledge and widen our purview;
Until the Kingdom of God is found and ensconced in the hearts of me and you.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Luke 17

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Intern-Pastor Jonathan Jacob

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 89 | Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

CP 295 | I Will Sing of My Redeemer

MESSAGE

“How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God”

Text: Luke 18

Rev. Mark Tan

PRAYER

HYMN

HWC 517 | I'd Rather Have Jesus

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 89 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

JOACHIM NEANDER

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desire e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again:
Gladly forever adore Him.



HYMNS

CP 295 I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER

PHILIP P. BLISS

1. I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered from the curse to set me free.

Refrain

Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.

2. I will tell the wondrous story, how my lost estate to save,
In His boundless love and mercy, He the ransom freely gave.

Refrain

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer, His triumphant pow'r I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth over sin and death and hell.

Refrain

4. I will sing of my Redeemer and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with Him to be.

Refrain



HYMNS

HWC 517 I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS

RHEA F. MILLER

1. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand

Refrain

Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.

2. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame.
I'd rather be true to His holy name

Refrain

3. He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs.
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead

Refrain



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